

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc.****Project Title:****Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc. - KBRW Equipment, Engineering and Logistics Grant****State Funding Requested: \$ 73,000****House District: 40 - T**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Replacement of outdated equipment and maintenance of existing equipment to prolong its useful life.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$98,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$25,000	08				
Total	\$25,000					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

KBRW is located in Barrow and is the only radio station serving the North Slope population of some 7,000 people living in 8 villages. Local residents contribute to the operations of the station through fundraisers with each resident contributing about \$2,000. However, this is not enough to maintain all of the equipment and operations to run the radio station. The grant would provide for replacement of equipment in the master control and production room and major repairs of the NPR satellite dish. Additionally, the grant money would provide for maintenance of the am radio tower and translator, automation and UPS transmitter site maintenance and upgrade, and a upgrade of the office computer network. Lastly, it would replace the maintenance vehicle which is used for remote maintenance and general duties at the radio station. Most of the current equipment that is being requested for replacement is over 15 years old and has reached the end of its expected useful life. Many of the maintenance items have not been inspected and repaired in over 9 years and are past due for repairs. Part of this project was funded with funding from the supplemental budget but this funding would complete the project.

In rural Alaska, one of the duties of the radio station is to provide programming that addresses the health, safety and education needs of the community. KBRW is used by all of the local public safety and weather organizations to disperse information regarding life, health, and safety issues. Such information includes search and rescue operations, storm information, travel conditions, and disease and rabies outbreaks. The radio station is a vital tool to get important information to the hub and outlying communities in the timeliest manner.

Project Timeline:

Most of the money would be expended during late August and early fall.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

KBRW

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Robert Sommer

Phone Number: 852-6811

Address: Box 109 Barrow, Ak. 99723

Email:

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

KBRW AM & FM

SILAKKUAGVIK COMMUNICATIONS, Inc.
Community Radio for Alaska's North Slope
680 AM • 91.9 FM

P.O. Box 109
1695 Okpik Street
Barrow, Alaska 99723

88.1 FM Kaktovik • 88.1 FM Nuiqsut • 88.1 FM Point Lay
101.5 FM Point Hope • 101.5 FM Anaktuvuk Pass
88.1 KCDS FM Deadhorse

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February 4, 2008

Representative Reggie Joule
3100 State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

As per our conversation, here is our modified Capital Request.

This past November KBRW raised \$146,399 in our Annual Membership Drive. This money is used for the operation and maintenance of the station and represents 21.4% of our total cash budget. Our station is the lifeline for North Slope residents and listeners show how much they appreciate us during our Annual Membership Drive.

On behalf of Silakkuagvik Communications, Inc. (KBRW AM & FM), I am requesting a Capital Equipment, Engineering, and Logistics Grant of \$98,000 as listed below. This Grant Request is listed in priority order. Funding for any or all listed projects would be greatly appreciated.

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| \$35,000 | Replacement of equipment in Master Control and Production rooms and major repair of the NPR Satellite Dish. Most of the current equipment is over 15 years old and has reached the end of its expected usefulness. Much of the current equipment has also not been in commercial production for some time and spare parts are very difficult or impossible to obtain. The satellite dish is how we receive all of our National Public Radio programming. This dish completely failed December 4, 2007. A professional engineer, with specific equipment, needs to be brought in for the complete repair and realignment of the dish. Normal settling, ageing and time are the main causes for the failure. This dish has never been completely realigned since its installation over 10 years ago. |
| \$11,000 | AM radio tower and translator maintenance. Our AM radio 400-foot tower has not had an inspection or maintenance in over 9 years and it should be done every 5 years according to our insurance company. There is also some known maintenance work that needs to be done on the tower and professional tower climbers need to be brought in for the work. Our 5 translators in outlying villages have had no maintenance in over 6 years. They need to be inspected and any necessary work done. |

- \$6,000 Automation maintenance and upgrade. The automation system for both our AM and FM stations is 6 years old and is now in need of some replacements and upgrades. This system originally cost the station \$46,000 and life expectancy is 15-20 years with proper maintenance.
- \$4,000 UPS and transmitter site maintenance. KBRW has 21 U-P-Ss (Uninterruptible Power Supply) and about half of them need to be replaced due to normal wear and aging. Their normal life is 4-6 years. During a power outage, these units hold essential equipment power voltage steady in computers and other power sensitive equipment until emergency generators can come on line. Our transmitter site building and out buildings are in need of general maintenance that has been deferred for several years.
- \$3,000 Upgrade of our office computer network. Our office computers and network servers are 6 years old and are in need of upgrades and general maintenance. We also use this network and its computers for audio editing, storage of spots and programming. It can also be used as a backup for programming our automation.
- \$39,000 Maintenance vehicle. KBRW currently owns a 1993 4x4 pickup truck that it uses for maintenance, remotes and general duties for the radio station. This truck was originally purchased new and now is in dire need of replacement. For a vehicle to last 15 years in the Arctic Alaskan Bush is a testament to the care KBRW has given it, but the time has come for it to be replaced. Maintenance costs have soared the past 3 years. The main use of this vehicle is for emergencies, maintenance and remotes. During power outages and severe weather it is imperative that the station have transportation available to support the station. KBRW's satellite dishes are located in a remote area 5 miles from the station and the transmitter site is located in a different remote area 19 miles from the station. To perform maintenance, both emergency and normal day to day, requires us to have transportation. Use of this vehicle is very tightly controlled because of its importance and maintenance of the truck is budgeted each year.

\$98,000 Total requested.



Robert C. Sommer
General Manager
KBRW AM & FM

cc: Senator Donald Olson